A Glossary

This glossary briefly defines some terms that are used in this guide. Platform-specific information is noted. Additional information may be found online in the hyperlinks and the menus.

.au	common extension for audio files (`myaudioclip.au`)
.gif	the CompuServe Graphics Interchange Format—common extension for a graphics file (`mygraphic.gif`)
.html	the extension used on a file that is coded using HTML (`myfile.html`); see also *HTML*
.xbm	X-bitmapped (composed of dots or pixels) file format—common extension for a graphic file (`mygraphic.xbm`) (UNIX)
AIFF	a sound format
anchor	synonym for hyperlink
annotation	feature of NCSA Mosaic that lets you add a comment to a World Wide Web document being viewed
anonymous FTP	a process for document retrieval using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP); user logs on (as "anonymous") but does not need a password to access documents on the server
Archie	search device for documents on anonymous FTP server machines; the search matches filenames
AU	see *.au*
BinHex	a file format where binary data is converted into ASCII text (Macintosh)
browser	a World Wide Web client—that is, a software package that lets you to look around the World Wide Web (Web)
CERN	particle physics institute located in Geneva, Switzerland and originators of the World Wide Web
client	a computer running client software that connects to server machines running server software; the client makes requests to a server for documents and is responsible for displaying the information. NCSA Mosaic is an example of client software.
document	unit of information sent from servers to clients; a document may contain plain or formatted text, inlined graphics, sound, other multimedia data, or hyperlinks to other documents; often also referred to as a file
external viewer	a software program that NCSA Mosaic calls upon to view file formats it does not support internally

FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions, usually presented as a list of questions and answers
FTP	File Transport Protocol, a protocol for transferring files between computers
GIF	see *.gif*
Gopher	menu-driven system on a server machine that presents the files available for retrieval in a hierarchical fashion; Gopher is considered particularly easy to use because of the menu system
Gopherspace	term for the interconnected Gopher servers
helper application	see *external viewer*
history list	in NCSA Mosaic, a list of recently visited documents (see "Navigate Menu" on page 3–5)
home page	start-up document that serves as a starting point for Internet explorations
hotlist	a personalized online reference created and maintained by the user of important documents; a hotlist can be shared by mailing the file to another NCSA Mosaic user
HTML	HyperText Markup Language, the collection of styles used to define the various components of a hypertext document; see also *.html*
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol, the protocol used by Web servers
hyperlink	a word or graphic in a document with some form of highlighting (color, underlined, or both) that links to another document; the word or graphic represents hidden text containing the location of another document that is displayed when you click on the highlighted word or graphic
hypermedia	online information with text, images, audio, and animation associated in a nonlinear web of associations
inlined image	a graphic image that is displayed along with text in an NCSA Mosaic window
Internet	an international computer network connecting universities, research institutions, government agencies, and businesses
JPEG	Joint Photographic Expert Group, a compression/decompression standard for bitmapped images
link	see *hyperlink*
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions, a format for including sound, images, animations and other types of data in an Internet email message
MPEG	Moving Pictures Experts Group, a movie format
NCSA	National Center for Supercomputing Applications on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the home of NCSA Mosaic

NCSA Mosaic	a World Wide Web client developed by NCSA's Software Development Group; designed for information discovery and retrieval using the global Internet
PostScript	A page description language developed by Adobe Systems and used for printing documents or displaying a document online using appropriate viewing software
PPP	point-to-point protocol, a method of connection to the Internet using a modem and phone lines
QuickTime	a movie format developed by Apple Computer
server	software that serves information to client software applications upon request
SLIP	Serial Line Internet Protocol, a method of connecting to the Internet using a modem and phone lines
SGML	Standard Generalized Markup Language, a language that defines the structure of a document and the logical relationship of its parts
source file	for NCSA Mosaic, the file that contains the HTML codes that Mosaic interprets for display in the Document View window
tags	formatting codes used in HTML (e.g., <H1> and </H1>, <P>) and interpreted by a browser
TCP/IP	a protocol for communication between computers
TIFF	Tag Image File Format, a graphics format file type
UIUC	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
URL	Uniform Resource Locator, server and path information used in an HTML-coded source file to locate another document
Veronica	search device that matches filenames on Gopher servers
WAIS	Wide Area Information Server, an index and retrieval system; when you enter a keyword, a search is performed on indexed documents, which can then be retrieved
Web	another name for the World Wide Web
World Wide Web	a distributed hypertext-based information system developed at CERN
WWW	abbreviation for World Wide Web
XBM	see *.xbm*